



Winter Weather Definitions and Terminology

National Weather Service Springfield, Missouri issues the following winter weather watches, warning and advisories.

Winter Weather Advisory:

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences to travel and public safety.

- Snow accumulations < 6"
- Ice accumulations < 0.25"
- Sleet accumulations < 0.50"
- Combination of light accumulations of ice and snow

Winter Storm Watch:

Issued for the possibility of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a major Winter Storm.

Winter Storm Warning:

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin. Winter storm conditions are:

- Snow accumulations of ≥ 6 "
- Sleet accumulations ≥ 0.50 "
- Combination of significant accumulations of both ice and snow.

Ice Storm Warning:

Issued when heavy freezing rain and extreme ice accumulations are expected. Usually issued for ice accumulations of > 0.25 "

Blizzard Warning:

Issued when blizzard conditions are expected for a substantial amount of time. Blizzard conditions are:

- Sustained or gusty winds of ≥ 35 mph and
- Falling or blowing snow creating visibilities $\leq \frac{1}{4}$ mile

Wind Chill Advisory:

Issued when the wind chill or feel like temperatures with the combination of the wind and cold air will be between -10° F to -24° F.

Wind Chill Warning:

Issued when the wind chill or feel like temperature with the combination of the wind and cold air will be -25° F or colder.